

When does a satellite knot fiber?

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Abstract

Necessary and sufficient conditions are given for a satellite knot to be fibered. Any knot \tilde{k} embeds in an unknotted solid torus \tilde{V} with arbitrary winding number in such a way that no satellite knot with pattern (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is fibered. In particular, there exist nonfibered satellite knots with fibered pattern and companion knots and nonzero winding number.

1 Introduction

Proposition 4.15 of the monograph *Knots* [2] erroneously asserts and proves that a satellite knot is fibered if and only if it has nonzero winding number and both its companion and pattern knots are fibered. In 1990, the third author of the present paper contacted the authors of *Knots*, informed them of the mistake, and provided a counterexample. The recent second edition of the now-classic textbook acknowledged the error and reproduced the example. However, the necessary and sufficient conditions that it provided are not the most convenient in practice.

The present paper is an expanded version of an unpublished note that the third author wrote in 1991. Its algebraic necessary and sufficient conditions for a satellite knot to fiber, do not appear to be well known. (It is briefly mentioned on pages 221–222 of [14].)

Theorem 4.2 of the monograph [3] by D. Eisenbud and W. Neumann gives topological necessary and sufficient conditions for a satellite knot in a homology 3-sphere to fiber. Stated in terms of “splice components” arising from the Jaco-Shalen Johannson splitting theorem, it requires that each component be fibered and that the fibers meet each other compatibly.

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An alternative, topological condition presented here (see Theorem 3.2) is more convenient in many situations. It was discovered by the first author, who proved it using D. Gabai's sutured manifold theory. An elementary group theoretic proof was subsequently found by the second author.

We work throughout in the smooth category. As usual, a *knot* is an embedded circle in the 3-sphere \mathbb{S}^3 . It is *trivial* if it is the boundary of an embedded disk in \mathbb{S}^3 . More generally, a *link* is a union of finitely many pairwise disjoint knots. When each component is provided with a direction, the link is said to be *oriented*.

The complement of an open tubular neighborhood of a knot or link ℓ is called its *exterior*, and it is denoted by $X(\ell)$. Its boundary $\partial X(\ell)$ can be identified with $\ell \times \mathbb{S}^1$. A knot k is *fibred* if the projection $\partial X(k) \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$ extends to a fibration of $X(k)$. In such a case, $X(k)$ is the total space of a fiber bundle over the circle \mathbb{S}^1 . By theorems of L. Neuwirth [10] and J. Stallings [15], k is fibred if and only if the commutator subgroup $[\pi_k, \pi_k]$ of the knot group $\pi_k = \pi_1(\mathbb{S}^3 \setminus k)$ is finitely generated and hence free. The commutator subgroup is the kernel of the abelianization homomorphism $\chi : \pi_k \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ sending the class of an oriented meridian of k to 1.

2 Fibered criterion.

Satellite knots were introduced by H. Schubert [13] as a generalization of knot product. We briefly review their definition and some key properties. Let \tilde{k} be a knot embedded in a standard solid torus $\tilde{V} = \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{D}^2 \subset \mathbb{S}^3$. Assume that \tilde{k} is not isotopic to $\mathbb{S}^1 \times \{0\}$ nor is it contained in any 3-ball of \tilde{V} . Let h be a homeomorphism from \tilde{V} onto a closed tubular neighborhood of a nontrivial knot \hat{k} , mapping a longitude of \tilde{V} onto a longitude of \hat{k} . (By a *longitude* of \tilde{V} , we mean a meridian of the complementary solid torus $\mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \text{int } \tilde{V}$.) The image $k = h(\tilde{k})$ is called a *satellite knot* with *companion knot* \hat{k} and *pattern* (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) . By a *pattern knot* we mean \tilde{k} regarded in \mathbb{S}^3 . The *winding number* of \tilde{k} in \tilde{V} is the nonnegative integer n such that the homomorphism $H_1 \tilde{k} \rightarrow H_1 \tilde{V} \cong \mathbb{Z}$ induced by inclusion has image $n\mathbb{Z}$.

Two patterns (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}_1) and (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}_2) are regarded as the same if \tilde{k}_1 and \tilde{k}_2 are isotopic in \tilde{V} .

We denote the various groups $\pi_1(\mathbb{S}^3 \setminus k)$, $\pi_1(\mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \hat{k})$, $\pi_1(\mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \tilde{k})$ and $\pi_1(\tilde{V} \setminus \tilde{k})$ by G, \hat{G}, \tilde{G} and H , respectively. By the Seifert-van Kampen theorem,

$$G \cong H *_{\pi_1(\partial \tilde{V})} \hat{G}, \quad (1)$$

the amalgamated free product of H and \hat{G} with subgroups $\pi_1(\partial \tilde{V}) \subset H$ and $\pi_1(\partial X(\hat{k})) \subset \hat{G}$ identified via h .

It is convenient to regard H as the group of the 2-component link $\tilde{k} \cup \tilde{m}$, where \tilde{m} is a meridian of \tilde{V} . Let \tilde{l} be a longitude of \tilde{V} , and let λ denote its homotopy class in H . The quotient group $\langle H \mid \lambda \rangle$ is naturally isomorphic to \tilde{G} . We define \mathcal{K} to be the kernel of $\phi \circ \pi$, where $\pi : H \rightarrow \langle H \mid \lambda \rangle$ and $\phi : \tilde{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ are the quotient and abelianization homomorphisms, respectively. When the winding number n is nonzero, then the Reidemeister-Schreier method can be used to show that the commutator subgroup G' decomposes as an amalgamated free product:

$$G' \cong \mathcal{K} *_F (\hat{G}' * t \hat{G}' t^{-1} * \dots * t^{n-1} \hat{G}' t^{-(n-1)}) \quad (2)$$

Here $t \in G$ is the class of a meridian of k , while F is the subgroup of \mathcal{K} generated by $\lambda, t\lambda t^{-1}, \dots, t^{n-1}\lambda t^{-(n-1)}$. (For a proof, see Section 4.12 of [2].)

Let $Y(\tilde{k})$ denote the complement of an open tubular neighborhood of \tilde{k} in \tilde{V} . We say that the pattern (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is *fibred* if there exists a fibration $Y(\tilde{k}) \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$ inducing the homomorphism $\phi \circ \pi$ on fundamental groups. It is well known (and not difficult to see) that in this case, the winding number of \tilde{k} in \tilde{V} is nonzero. Moreover, \mathcal{K} is the fundamental group of the fiber, a compact surface with boundary, and hence \mathcal{K} is free.

The following fibering criterion for satellite knots is implicit in the knot theory literature (e.g. [3]), but to our knowledge it has not previously appeared.

Theorem 2.1. *Let k be a satellite knot with companion knot \hat{k} and pattern (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) . Then the following conditions are equivalent.*

1. k is fibred;
2. \hat{G}' and \mathcal{K} are finitely generated;
3. \hat{k} and (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) are fibred.

Proof. Suppose that k is fibred. The winding number n of \tilde{k} in \tilde{V} must be nonzero. For otherwise, $\pi_1(\partial\tilde{V}) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$, which is a subgroup of G by equation 1, would be contained in the free commutator subgroup G' – an impossibility. Consequently, G' has the form described by equation 2. Since a free product of groups amalgamated over a finitely generated group is itself finitely generated if and only if each of its factors is (see Lemma 4.14 of [2], for example), both \hat{G}' and \mathcal{K} are finitely generated.

If \hat{G}' and \mathcal{K} are finitely generated, then Stallings's theorem [15] implies that \hat{k} and (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) are fibred.

Finally, if \hat{k} and (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) are fibred, then \hat{G}' and \mathcal{K} are isomorphic to fundamental groups of fibers for respective fibrations. Consequently, both groups are finitely generated. Equation 2 implies that the commutator subgroup G' is finitely generated. By Stallings's theorem [15], the satellite knot k is fibred. \square

3 Pattern fibering criterion.

Let $\ell = \ell_1 \cup \dots \cup \ell_\mu$ be an oriented link. A meridian of any component acquires an orientation by the right-hand rule. The link is *fibred* if its exterior $X(\ell)$ admits a fibration $X(\ell) \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$. Such a fibration induces an epimorphism $H_1X(\ell) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, and as usual we require that the class of each meridian be sent to 1.

The epimorphism $H_1X(\ell) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is the abelianization of an epimorphism $\chi : \pi_1(\mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \ell) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$. By [10] and [15], the link ℓ is fibred if and only if the kernel \mathcal{A} of χ is finitely generated. The group \mathcal{A} is known as the *augmentation subgroup* of the group of ℓ .

Remark 3.1. Orientation is not required in the definition of a fibred knot, since any knot is fibred if and only if the knot with reversed orientation is fibred. Similarly, an orientated link is fibred if and only if the link obtained by reversing the orientation of every component is fibred. However, reversing the orientation of some but not all components can destroy the condition of fibredness. (A simple example is provided by the closure of the 2-braid σ_1^4 .)

Consider a pattern (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) such that \tilde{k} has nonzero winding number n . We associate an oriented 3-component link $\tilde{k} \cup \tilde{m} \cup \tilde{m}'$, where \tilde{m} and \tilde{m}' are disjoint meridians of \tilde{V} with opposite orientations. The orientation of \tilde{k} is arbitrary.

Theorem 3.2. *The pattern (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is fibered if and only if $\tilde{k} \cup \tilde{m} \cup \tilde{m}'$ is a fibered link.*

Proof. As in section 2, let H be the group of the 2-component link $\tilde{k} \cup \tilde{m}$, and let \mathcal{K} be the kernel of the epimorphism $H \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ mapping the class of a meridian of \tilde{k} to 1 and λ , the class of a meridian of \tilde{m} , to 0.

It suffices to show that the augmentation subgroup \mathcal{A} of the link $\tilde{k} \cup \tilde{m} \cup \tilde{m}'$ is the free product of \mathcal{K} and a finitely generated group (in fact, a free group of rank n , the winding number of \tilde{k} in \tilde{V}). Since the free product of two groups is finitely generated if and only if each of its factors is finitely generated, it will then follow that \mathcal{K} is finitely generated if and only if \mathcal{A} is. Equivalently, the pattern (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is fibered if and only if the link $\tilde{k} \cup \tilde{m} \cup \tilde{m}'$ is fibered.

Part of a diagram \mathcal{D}_1 for $\tilde{k} \cup \tilde{m}$ appears in Fig. 1 (a) with families of generators indicated. There are $p \geq n$ strands of \tilde{k} passing the meridional disk bounded by the unknotted circle representing \tilde{m} . Assign a weight ω of 1 or 0 to each arc of \mathcal{D}_1 according to whether the arc belongs to \tilde{k} or \tilde{m} , respectively. The Wirtinger algorithm combined with the Reidemeister-Schreier method enables us to write a presentation for \mathcal{K} . Each arc represents an infinite family $a_j, a'_j, b_j, b'_j, \dots, u_j, u_{1,j}, \dots, u_{p-1,j}$ of generators, indexed by $j \in \mathbb{Z}$. The letters a, a', b, b', \dots correspond to arcs of \tilde{k} , with one arc labeled only with the identity element; the remaining letters correspond to arcs of \tilde{m} .

Relators, which come in families indexed by $j \in \mathbb{Z}$, correspond to the crossings of \mathcal{D}_1 , and have the form $w_j y_{j+\omega} = z_j w_{j+\omega'}$, where ω and ω' are the weights of the arcs corresponding to w_j and z_j , respectively. We use relators r_1, \dots, r_{p-1} (indicated in the figure by boxed numbers) to eliminate $u_{1,j}, \dots, u_{p-1,j}$.

Recall that in a link diagram, any one Wirtinger relator is a consequence of the others. Consequently, any single relator family is a consequence of the others. We regard r_p as a redundant family of relators.

The relator families arising from the remaining crossings in the figure have the form $a'_j = u_j a_j \bar{u}_{j+1}, b'_j = u_j b_j \bar{u}_{j+1}, \dots$, where $\bar{}$ denotes inverse.

Consider now the partial diagram \mathcal{D}_2 for $\tilde{k} \cup \tilde{m} \cup \tilde{m}'$ that appears in Fig. 1 (b), again with families of generators indicated. Letters $a, a', a'', b, b', b'', \dots$ correspond to arcs of \tilde{k} while v, v_1, \dots, v_{p-1} and w, w_1, \dots, w_{p-1} correspond to arcs of \tilde{m} and \tilde{m}' , respectively. The parts of \mathcal{D}_1 and \mathcal{D}_2 not shown are identical.

Relator families r_1, \dots, r_{p-1} (indicated in the figure by boxed numbers) are used to eliminate $v_{1,j}, \dots, v_{p-1,j}$. The relator family r_p expresses v_{j+n} in terms of $v_j, \dots, v_{j+n-1}, a_j, b_j, \dots$; it also expresses v_j in terms of $v_{j+1}, \dots, v_{j+n}, a_j, b_j, \dots$.

The top front relator families are used to eliminate a''_j, b''_j, \dots . Relator families r'_1, \dots, r'_{p-1} are used to eliminate $w_{1,j}, \dots, w_{p-1,j}$. The relator family r'_p is regarded as redundant.

The bottom front relator families are of the form $a'_j = \bar{w}_{j-1} v_{j-1} a_j \bar{v}_j w_j, b'_j = \bar{w}_{j-1} v_{j-1} b_j \bar{v}_j w_j, \dots$

Introduce a new generator family u_j and defining relators $u_j = \bar{w}_{j-1} v_{j-1}$. Rewrite the relators as $w_j = v_j \bar{u}_{j+1}$, and use them to eliminate w_j .

Relator family r_p can be used to eliminate v_j for $j \neq 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1$, writing them in terms of $v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, a_j, b_j, \dots$. None of the remaining relators contain v_0, \dots, v_{n-1} , and so these generate a free factor F_n of rank n .

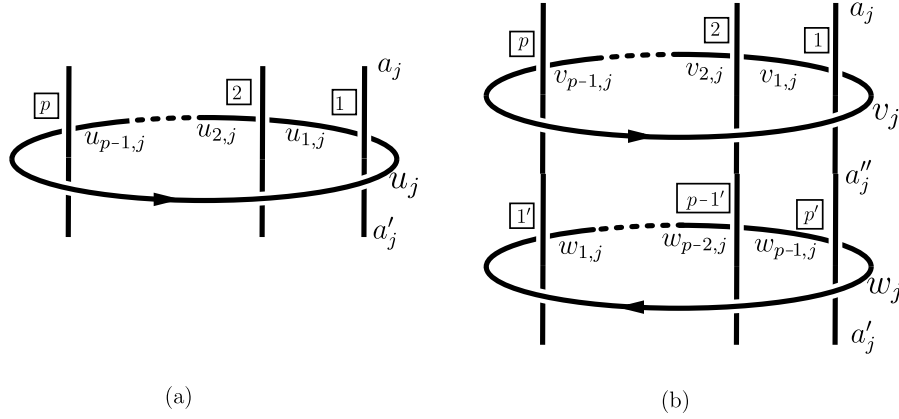


Figure 1: (a) Partial diagram of \mathcal{D}_1 , (b) Partial diagram of \mathcal{D}_2 .

The other generators and remaining relators are identical with those of the presentation obtained for \mathcal{K} . Hence \mathcal{A} is isomorphic to the free product $\mathcal{K} * F_n$. \square

4 Examples.

We give examples to demonstrate the applicability of Theorem 3.2. We show that the knot 7_6 (with braid index 4) gives two 4-braided fibered patterns and infinitely many mutually non-conjugate 4-braided non-fibered patterns.

Let β_n denote the 4-braid $\sigma_2\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_2^{-2n}\sigma_3^{-1}\sigma_2\sigma_3^{-1}\sigma_2^{2n}\sigma_1^{-2}$, where $n \geq 0$. Let $\hat{\beta}_n$ be its closure along an axis A . Each $\hat{\beta}_n$ is (the mirror image of) the knot 7_6 .

Let $N(A)$ denote a closed tubular neighborhood of A that is disjoint from $\hat{\beta}_n$. Then $\tilde{V} = \mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \text{int } N(A)$ is a solid torus, and $(\tilde{V}, \hat{\beta}_n)$ is a pattern of 7_6 .

Proposition 4.1. *With β_n defined as above:*

1. *The pattern $(\tilde{V}, \hat{\beta}_n)$ is not fibered for any $n > 1$;*
2. *Patterns $(\tilde{V}, \hat{\beta}_0)$ and $(\tilde{V}, \hat{\beta}_1)$ are fibered.*

Remark 4.2. Since β_0 is a homogeneous braid, J. Stallings [16] and L. Rudolph [12] claim that $(\tilde{V}, \hat{\beta}_0)$ is a fibered pattern. However, for completeness we include a proof for this case.

Then encircled closures of β_0 and β_1 are links with distinct 1-variable Alexander polynomials, and hence the braids are non-conjugate.

The braids β_n , $n \geq 2$, will be seen to be mutually non-conjugate as a consequence of the fact that the genera of the 3-component links consisting the closed braids and two copies of axes with opposite orientations are distinct. Consequently, the patterns $(\tilde{V}, \hat{\beta}_n)$ are seen to be pairwise distinct.

Proof. For any $n \geq 0$, let L_n denote the 3-component link consisting of $\hat{\beta}_n$ and $A \cup A'$, two copies of A with opposite orientations. We will construct a minimal genus Seifert surface for L_n ,

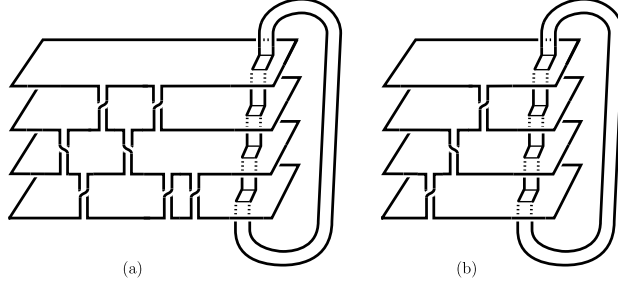


Figure 2: Seifert surfaces for 3-component links

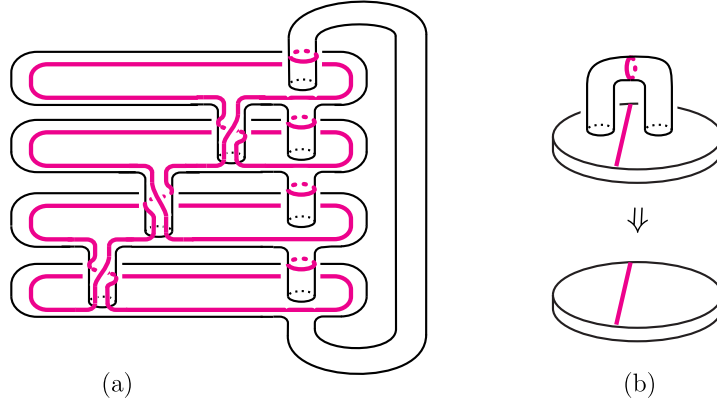


Figure 3: A sutured manifold and the C -product decomposition

and show that it is not a fiber surface unless $n = 0, 1$. We use sutured manifold theory. (For basic facts about sutured manifolds, see [5, pp. 8 – 10 and Appendix A] and [6, Section 1].)

Consider the Seifert surface F_0 for L_0 as in Figure 2 (a), obtained by smoothing the ribbon intersections of the Seifert surface for $\hat{\beta}_0$ and the annulus spanned by $A \cup A'$. Recall that if a Seifert surface has minimal genus or is a fiber, then it remains so after plumbing or deplumbing of Hopf bands. Let F'_0 be the surface as in Figure 2 (b), obtained from F_0 by deplumbing Hopf bands.

Consider the sutured manifold $(M, \gamma) = (F'_0 \times I, \partial F'_0 \times I)$, where I is an interval. Apply a C -product decomposition at each ‘ribbon hole’ to obtain the sutured manifold as in Figure 3 (a). The ‘annulus part’ of F_0 gives rise to the four 1-handles. We can slide each of them as in Figure 3 (b) and then remove them by C -product decompositions.

We now have a sutured manifold which is a 3-ball with a single suture. By [5], F_0 is a fiber surface (of genus 5) and hence L_0 is fibered. By Theorem 3.2, $(\tilde{V}, \hat{\beta}_0)$ is a fibered pattern.

Assume that $n > 1$. Let R_n be a Seifert surface for $\hat{\beta}_n$ (not of minimal genus) as in Figure 4.

By superimposing an annulus spanned by $A \cup A'$ and smoothing the ribbon intersections as before, we obtain a Seifert surface F_n (of genus $2n + 3$ if $n > 0$) for L_n . Recall that for any fibered link L , fiber surfaces are unique Seifert surfaces of minimal genus. Therefore, to show that L_n is not a fibered link, it suffices to show that F_n is not a fiber surface but that it has minimal genus.

Without loss of generality, we can remove some of parallel half-twisted bands by deplumbing

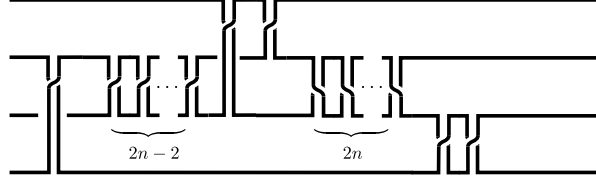


Figure 4: Seifert surfaces for closed braids

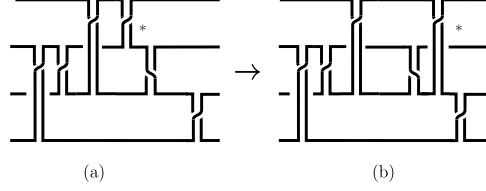


Figure 5: Deplumbing a Hopf band

Hopf bands so that the remaining ones are as in Figure 5 (a). Then we slide a band as in Figure 5 (b) and remove the band marked $*$ by another Hopf deplumbing.

Obtain a sutured manifold by thickening the resulting Seifert surface and apply C -product decompositions at each cite of a ribbon singularity. The sutured manifold appears in Figure 6 (a).

As before, we can remove three 1-handles marked $*$ by C -product decompositions. Then applying another C -product decomposition along the shaded disk (where the dots indicate the intersections with the sutures), we obtain a sutured manifold as in Figure 6 (b).

A final C -product decomposition yields a sutured manifold (M, γ) . Since it is a solid torus with four meridional sutures (Figure 6 (c)), its complement is not a product sutured manifold.

By [5], F_n is not a fiber surface. However, we can apply a disk decomposition to (M, γ) so that the result is a 3-ball with a single suture, and hence by [6], F_n is a minimal genus Seifert surface. Therefore, $L_n, n > 1$ is not a fibered link. By Theorem 3.2, we conclude that $(\tilde{V}, \hat{\beta}_n)$ is not fibered

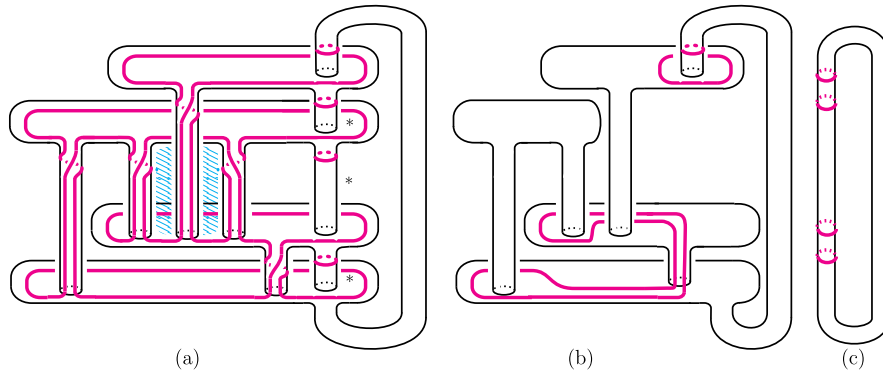


Figure 6: C -product decompositions

for any $n > 1$.

In the remaining case $n = 1$, a sequence of C -product decompositions as above produces a solid torus with two meridional sutures. Consequently, F_1 is a fiber for L_1 . \square

5 Fibered patterns of the unknot.

We will denote by \mathcal{P}_n the collection of all fibered patterns (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) such that \tilde{k} is a trivial knot with winding number n in \tilde{V} . The following theorem classifies the members of \mathcal{P}_n .

Theorem 5.1. *Let (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) be a pattern such that \tilde{k} is the trivial knot with winding number in \tilde{V} equal to n . Then (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is fibered if and only if the meridian \tilde{m} of \tilde{V} is the closure of an n -braid B with axis \tilde{k} . The mapping $(\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) \mapsto [B]$ is a bijection between \mathcal{P}_n and the set of conjugacy classes of the n -braid group B_n .*

For the definition and elementary properties of n -braids, the reader is referred to [1].

Proof. We use notation established in section 2. Assume that (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is a member of \mathcal{P}_n . Then there exists a fibration $Y(\tilde{k}) \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$ inducing the homomorphism $\phi \circ \pi$ on fundamental groups. Let S be a fiber $p^{-1}(\theta)$, $\theta \in \mathbb{S}^1$. Since p restricts to a fibration of $\partial Y(\tilde{k})$, it follows that ∂S consists of a longitude of \tilde{k} together with longitudes $\tilde{\ell}_1, \dots, \tilde{\ell}_n$ of \tilde{V} . We can extend p to a fibration $\bar{p} : X(\tilde{k}) \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$ such that $\bar{p}^{-1}(\theta)$ is the “capped off” fiber $S \cup_{\tilde{\ell}_1} \mathbb{D}^2 \cup_{\tilde{\ell}_2} \dots \cup_{\tilde{\ell}_n} \mathbb{D}^2$, since \tilde{V} is unknotted. Assume now that \tilde{k} is a trivial knot. Then $\bar{p}^{-1}(\theta)$ must be a disk. Moreover, $X(\tilde{k})$ is isotopic in \mathbb{S}^3 to a standardly embedded solid torus $\mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{D}^2$. Since \tilde{m} intersects each $\theta \times \mathbb{D}^2 = (\bar{p}^{-1}(\theta))$ in exactly n points, \tilde{m} is the closure of an n -braid B with axis \tilde{k} . The particular embedding of \tilde{m} in $\mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{D}^2$ that we obtain in this way is independent up to isotopy of the choices that we make. Hence by Theorem 1 of [8], the conjugacy class of B in the n -braid group is well defined.

In order to prove that the mapping $(\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) \mapsto [B]$ is a bijection, it suffices to produce the inverse mapping. The method that we use is essentially the reverse of the above, and it has been used elsewhere (cf. [8]). Assume that B is an n -braid that closes to a trivial knot \tilde{m} . Denote the axis of \tilde{m} by \tilde{k} . Let $N(\tilde{m})$ and $N(\tilde{k})$ be disjoint tubular neighborhoods in \mathbb{S}^3 of \tilde{m} and \tilde{k} , respectively, and consider the space $Y = \mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \text{int}(N(\tilde{m}) \cup N(\tilde{k}))$. Regarded as the exterior of the closed n -braid \tilde{m} in the solid torus $\mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \text{int} N(\tilde{k})$, the space Y fibers over \mathbb{S}^1 ; the fiber is a disk with n holes and boundary consisting of a meridian of $\mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \text{int} N(\tilde{k})$ together with n meridians of $N(\tilde{m})$. On the other hand, Y can be viewed as the exterior of the trivial knot \tilde{k} in the unknotted solid torus $\tilde{V} = \mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \text{int} N(\tilde{m})$. From this vantage, the boundary of the fiber consists of a longitude of \tilde{k} together with n longitudes of \tilde{V} , each also a meridian of $\mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \text{int} \tilde{V}$. It follows that the pattern (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is fibered. Notice that \tilde{k} has winding number in \tilde{V} equal to n . Also, (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) depends only on the conjugacy class of B . Clearly, $B \mapsto (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k})$ is the desired inverse mapping. \square

If \tilde{m} is the the closure of a 1-braid with unknotted axis \tilde{k} , then $\tilde{k} \cup \tilde{m}$ is a Hopf link. We obtain the following corollary. In effect, it asserts that there is no fibered satellite knot with unknotted pattern knot \tilde{k} having winding number 1 in the solid torus \tilde{V} .

Corollary 5.2. *Let \tilde{k} be a trivial knot embedded in an unknotted solid torus \tilde{V} with winding number equal to 1. Then (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is fibered if and only if $(\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) = (\mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{D}^2, \mathbb{S}^1 \times 0)$.*

Remark 5.3. There exist nontrivial fibered patterns with winding number 1. Such an example (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) can be constructed from the closure of the 3-braid $\sigma_2^2 \sigma_1^2 \sigma_2$ in \tilde{V} by adding a short band with

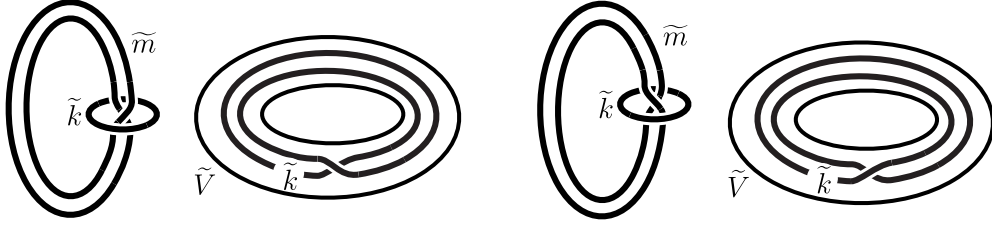


Figure 7: Fibered patterns of unknot with winding number 2.

a full twist between the 1st and 2nd strings, away from the crossings. Here \tilde{k} naturally spans a fiber surface F consisting of a checkerboard-colorable surface together with a plumbed Hopf band. A fiber S for the 3-component link of Theorem 3.2 is obtained by adding an annulus to F . By Theorem 3.2 and arguments similar to earlier ones, we see that (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is a fibered pattern.

By reasoning similar to that of Corollary 5.2 we find that there exist only two fibered patterns (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) such that \tilde{k} is a trivial knot with winding number in \tilde{V} equal to 2. These correspond to the conjugacy classes of the 2-braids σ_1 and σ_1^{-1} . See Fig. 7.

For $n = 3$, there are only three fibered patterns, corresponding to the conjugacy classes of 3-braids $\sigma_1\sigma_2$, $\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_2$ and $\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_2^{-1}$ [9]. (The braid $\sigma_1\sigma_2^{-1}$ does not appear in the list since it is conjugate to $\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_2$ in B_3 .)

If n is greater than 3, the situation is more complicated. We note that $\sigma_1\sigma_2^{2i+1}\sigma_3\sigma_2^{-2i}$, $i \geq 0$ represent infinitely many pairwise non-conjugate 4-braids [8]. Axes \tilde{m} of non-conjugate braids form distinct fibered patterns of the unknot by Theorem 5.1. Hence \mathcal{P}_4 is infinite.

Corollary 5.4. *Any knot \tilde{k} can be embedded in an unknotted solid torus \tilde{V} with arbitrary winding number n in such a way that no satellite knot with pattern (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is fibered.*

Proof. By Theorem 2.1 it suffices to prove that \tilde{k} can be embedded in \tilde{V} with arbitrary winding number n such that (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is not fibered. We may assume that n is positive (see remarks preceding Theorem 2.1). We will prove the corollary assuming further that \tilde{k} is the trivial knot. The general result will then follow by trying an arbitrary “local knot” in \tilde{k} (that is, forming the knot product of \tilde{k} and an arbitrary knot, and doing so within a 3-ball in \tilde{V}), since a product of knots is fibered if and only if each of the factors is.

For $n > 0$, consider the oriented link L_n depicted in Fig. 8 (a), consisting of two unknotted components \tilde{k} and \tilde{m} .

Let $N(\tilde{m})$ be a tubular neighborhood in \mathbb{S}^3 of \tilde{m} that is disjoint from \tilde{k} . Then $\mathbb{S}^3 \setminus \text{int } N(\tilde{m})$ is an unknotted solid torus \tilde{V} containing the trivial knot \tilde{k} with winding number n . (When $n = 1$, the pattern (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is the configuration in Fig. 8 (b) (cf. [7])). Assume that (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is fibered. By Theorem 5.1, the link L_n can be isotoped in such a way that \tilde{m} appears as the closure of an n -braid with axis \tilde{k} . Consequently, L_n is the closure of an $(n + 1)$ -braid. A theorem of J. Franks and R.F. Williams [4] (also proved by H.R. Morton) implies that the braid index of L_n is at least $\frac{1}{2}(e_{\max} - e_{\min}) + 1$, where e_{\max} and e_{\min} are respectively the largest and smallest

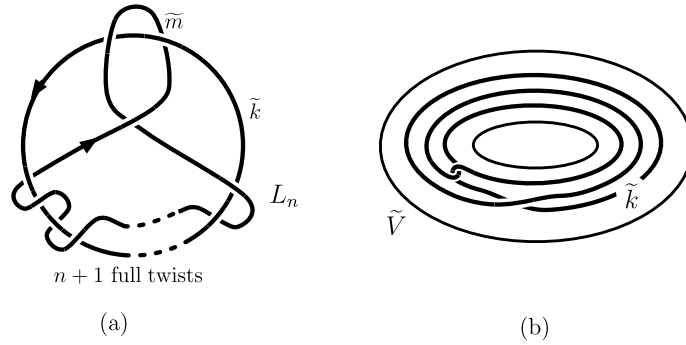


Figure 8: (a) The link L_n , (b) Pattern when $n = 1$.

exponents of x in the 2-variable Jones polynomial $j_{L_n}(x, y)$ of L_n . An easy calculation reveals that $j_{L_n}(x, y) = -x^{-2}j_{L_{n-1}}(x, y) - x^{-1}j_{3_1}(x, y)$, where 3_1 denotes the left-hand trefoil knot, and from this it is not difficult to verify that $\frac{1}{2}(e_{\max} - e_{\min}) + 1 = n + 3$, a contradiction. Hence (\tilde{V}, \tilde{k}) is not fibered. \square

Remark 5.5. The orientation of the components of L_n is critical. If the orientation of just one component is reversed, then the braid index of L_n becomes 3, for any nonzero n .

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